

**FAQ 6:** *Do I get relief if my ball is touching the wall of the drainage ditch in front of the 15th green?*

**Applicable Rule(s):** Local Rule 2 (Water Hazards)

a) Water hazards are defined by yellow stakes b) Lateral water hazards are defined by red stakes c) The extent of the concrete water hazards are defined by the walls/concrete, the extent of all other water hazards are defined by the line of yellow or red stakes

**Local Rule 4 (Immovable Obstructions)**

The relevant part of Local Rule 4 is:

b) Walls adjacent to paths/ditches/hazards.

**Rule 20-2 (Dropping and Re-dropping)**

**Rule 24-2 (Immovable Obstruction);**

**Answer:**

**No.**

The wall is part of the hazard and since the ball is touching the hazard it is by definition in the hazard and as such you do not get relief from any immovable obstructions.

If however your ball was not touching the wall and not in the hazard and the wall would physically interfere with your stance or your swing then you can obtain relief without penalty, under Local Rule 4 and Rule 24-2 . You should drop the ball following the procedure described in FAQ 3.

Also, note the wording in point c) of Local Rule 2. The stakes for this type of hazard are not part of the hazard, they are only there to tell you whether the hazard is a water hazard (yellow) or a lateral water hazard (red). So if your ball comes to rest behind the stakes but is not touching the wall or in the ditch then it is not in the water (or lateral water) hazard and so it is highly likely that you will be able to claim relief without penalty.

One other point about the stakes – the stakes are movable obstructions (Local Rule 5) so they may be removed to play a shot from within the hazard, e.g. if your ball is on top of the wall and you elect to play it from there.